

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVISORY COUNCIL (DVAC)

California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA)

Law Enforcement & Victims Services (LEVS) Division

Friday, February 26, 2010, 10:00 AM

Department of General Services – East End Complex

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Alva Moreno, Ben Schirmer, Carey Sullivan, Cherri Allison, Christine Ward, Lynda Smallenberger, Maxine Oliver-Benson, Nancy O'Malley, Mao Yang (for Fiona Ma) and Lynda Gledhill (for Ellen Corbett).

Members Absent: Debra Suh, Mary Walton and Suzanne Aebischer.

Cal EMA Staff Present: Ellie Jones, Chief, Public Safety and Victim Services Division, Leigh Bills, Chief, Domestic Violence Section and Janine Williams, Criminal Justice Specialist II, Victim Services Branch and Cal EMA Lead for the DVAC.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Janine Williams called the meeting to order at 10:15 A.M.

II. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS

Cal EMA Staff welcomed all the members and encouraged all members to participate fully in the meeting and to stop and ask questions as needed. All in attendance did a brief introduction.

Janine Williams passed out Maxine Oliver-Benson's Biography.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES

Janine Williams asked if anyone had any changes to the minutes from the previous meeting. Ben Schirmer presented an amendment to the minutes. Carey Sullivan moved to approve the minutes as amended. Maxine Oliver-Benson seconded the motion. There were no questions and all members approved the motion.

IV. ELECTIONS

Nancy O'Malley withdrew from the nomination to be the Chair person; this left three candidates, Ben Schirmer, Christine Ward and Lynda Smallenberger.

The DVAC agreed to vote via written ballots. Janine Williams asked if each nominated person would like to make a statement prior to the vote. Each person spoke and the ballots were passed out, collected and counted by Janine Williams.

Christine Ward was voted as the Chair of the Domestic Violence Advisory Council. The DVAC took a break to let Cal EMA Staff review the agenda with the new Chair.

Co-Chair – Same process occurred, the Council elected Ben Schirmer as the Co-Chair

Sgt. Of Arms – Nancy O'Malley was the only nominee and was elected as Sgt. of Arms by default.

The DVAC discussed the length of time the officers should hold their offices. Alva Moreno suggested 2 years. Carey Sullivan made the motion that the terms for officers be set for 2 years. Nancy O'Malley seconded the motion, there was no discussion and all members voted in favor.

An additional motion was made to begin January 1, 2010 for convenience. Ben Schirmer made the motion, Carey Sullivan seconded the motion, there was no discussion and all members voted in favor.

V. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The statute for the DVAC was handed out as the council members began to work on their mission statement.

Ben Schirmer gave a history of the origination of the enabling bill enacting the DVAC. Ben indicated the Domestic Violence (DV) field had concerns regarding how the funding would be administered. The DVAC would be protection for the field. Ellie Jones gave a brief history of the 2001 competitive Request for Proposal process which resulted in 9 previously funded shelters losing funding. The nine shelters approached the legislature and were awarded general fund dollars. These 2.4 million dollars (originally 2.7 million) is still in the Governor's Budget for 2010. Further discussion continued about streamlining processes, past successes and failures, stability and the fact that the DVAC is the only advisory body for DV in California.

The council members discussed at length what should be included in the mission statement. The following Mission Statement was adopted by the DVAC:

The mission of the Domestic Violence Advisory Council is to collaborate with California Emergency Management Agency to ensure the safety and security of all Domestic Violence victims through development of policies, procedures and priorities which promote effective and accessible services for victims.

Nancy O'Malley made a motion to accept the above statement as the mission statement. Carey Sullivan seconded the motion, there was no further discussion and all members voted in favor.

The council members discussed possible goals and objectives for the committee. The following goals were identified:

- Identifying additional sources of funding and/or revenue;
- Achieving services in a cost effective way;
- Budget;
- Request for Application (RFA);
- DVRT Program;
- Core Services – Collaboration; and
- Funding Formula.

VI. BUDGET UPDATE

SBX 3-13 – Leigh Bills discussed that these funds have to be spent to show that they were needed and will continue to be needed. Cal EMA has decided that maximized usage of funds can be achieved by spending all of the Comprehensive Shelter Program funds and saving Federal Funds for future use due to the fact that Federal Funds have a longer timeframe to be spent.

VII. VAWA IMPLEMENTATION

Ellie Jones gave an update of the recent VAWA implementation meeting. The Council was briefed on the fact that the future of the Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT) program will also be discussed by the VAWA Implementation Committee.

VIII. CAL EMA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMS

Leigh Bills discussed what's coming up for the Domestic Violence Section/field. The Domestic Violence Assistance Program (DVAP) RFA will be released on March 1, 2010. An explanation of the RFA was provided. The DVAP Progress Report was updated to comply with Federal requirements. Cal EMA will be sharing progress report information with California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (CPEDV).

Leigh Bills discussed that there will be cuts across the board, some more than others based on what program they belong to. Ellie Jones stated that the goal is to keep the funding status quo through old funds that were saved and there is a possible increase in Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Funds. Leigh Bills stated that for the DVAP the original 85 were increased by 10% from their Cal EMA status accomplished through reverted funds and will be maintained for two years.

Nancy O'Malley asked if the program objectives could be lowered. Ellie Jones responded that the program objectives could only be changed by changing the statute through legislation.

There was continued discussion in regards to funding, revenue and the 13 mandated services.

Leigh Bills asked if the council wanted to be part of establishing a new funding formula. Alva Moreno responded in the affirmative and Nancy O'Malley agreed adding that the council could also use the 2010 Census when establishing a new funding formula.

The future of the DVRT Program and how the budget will affect that program was discussed. Ellie Jones recommended that the council members should look at several different options that Cal EMA can look at for administering the DVRT Program.

Leigh Bills discussed the two discretionary programs in the DV Section, The DVRT Program and the State Coalition Technical Assistance and Training Program (BW) and the need to discuss the continuation of these programs as an action item at the next meeting.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

Frequency of meetings – The Council agreed to meet Quarterly. The next meeting date is Friday, May 28, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in Oakland at the Family Justice Center.

The Council tentatively agreed on the 4th Friday of the month to be the meeting day for each quarterly meeting.

The Council decided to always have in-person meetings and there will be no substitutes for voting members.

The Council decided against by-laws at this time but will discuss ground rules, attendance and conduct at the next meeting.

X. ACTION ITEMS FOR MEETING ON 5/28/10

- Review and approve Minutes
- Continuation of discretionary programs in DV Section.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 PM